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magnitude." Nor have state or federal governments, in the opinion of the author, shown a remotely intelligent appreciation of these responsibilities. The book contains several convenient statistics relating to customs collections, exports, imports, the growth of our merchant marine, immigration, et cetera.

C. H. RAMMELKAMP

Plymouth and the pilgrims. By Arthur Lord. (New York: Houghton, Mifflin company, 1920. 178 p. \$1.50)

This volume contains three lectures delivered at Brown university in 1920 by the president of the Pilgrim society, who has also served as the chairman of the Pilgrim tercentenary commission.

Mr. Lord's attempt to place the pilgrims against a comprehensive new as well as old world background is wholly laudable. Unfortunately, in his first lecture upon "Plymouth before the pilgrims," which would almost justify the title "North America before the pilgrims," the author deals with material with which he is much less familiar than with the pilgrim story. The two other lectures deal with the pilgrims before, at, and after Plymouth. Here we have a condensed but illuminating account of pilgrim history. This part of the volume has unity, is well proportioned, usually quotes good authorities for judgments expressed, but occasionally draws upon imagination to fill in the details of dramatic pictures. The genesis of the independent movement in England is effectively presented.

The volume is interestingly written. Some scholars will differ from the author's views upon such topics as the occasion for and the significance of the *Mayflower* compact and the extent of the influence of the pilgrims upon the evolution of religious liberty. There are not infrequent instances of the careless use of authorities. The volume is not indexed.

GEORGE A. WOOD

In old Pennsylvania towns. By Anne Hollingsworth Wharton. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott company, 1920. 341 p. \$5.00)

In this very delightful volume the author of *Through colonial doorways* has woven into the story of a tour in Pennsylvania by motor and by train many bits of local history. The roads, old and new, the rivers, the inns, and the country places visited, all yield something for Miss Wharton's facile pen; but, as the title indicates, it is chiefly the older towns of the state — now indeed often very modern cities — with which the book has to do. Among the many towns included are Lancaster, York, Gettysburg, Chambersburg, Shippensburg, Carlisle, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Bedford Springs, Bellefonte, Sunbury, Wilkes-Barre, Northumberland, Reading,

and Bethlehem. There is much that is personal and genealogical, and the narrative turns frequently to such topics as Indian affairs, early methods of transportation, the religious sects of Pennsylvania, the development of the coal and the iron industries, the social life at the various springs, together with glimpses here and there of politics and military affairs. There is a wealth of photographic illustration, and an index chiefly of persons and places.

In her introductory chapter Miss Wharton very properly finds fault with the ignorance of "otherwise intelligent persons" with regard to the past events and present attainments of Pennsylvania, and severely criticizes, in particular, some invidious remarks in Mr. Theodore Dreiser's book, *A hoosier holiday*; but she takes her revenge, albeit quite unintentionally, for she consistently gives the name of the writer as "Mr. Theodore Dreisler." It may be suggested, also, that the name of the estate of Langdon Cheves near Lancaster, given by Miss Wharton as "Abbeyville," must surely have been "Abbeville," after the native district of the South Carolinian.

ST. GEORGE L. SIOUSSAT

Soldiers and sailors of France in the American war for independence (1776-1783). By Captain Joachim Merlant. Translated from the French by Mary Bushnell Coleman. (New York: Charles Scribner's sons, 1920. 213 p. \$2.00)

This book is a brilliant essay on the part played by France in the establishment of the United States. The author has brought before us once more the half-forgotten chivalry of old France, and has made it appear as an order of clever and lovable men. He has explained the negotiations between France and congress with a keenness of perception that indicates that he is intimately acquainted with diplomacy.

Throughout, the book shows a subtle admiration for the American people. It is no less complimentary to the French, and after reading the descriptions of Lafayette, Gerard, De Grasse, and their compatriots, the American historian will feel a little ashamed of his doubts. The author depends largely upon Doniol for his material. He draws, however, from collections of memoirs and letters of French soldiers, many of which are little known in this country and have been little used even by French writers. The narrative is enlivened by many anecdotes that are to the point.

The book will be found useful and entertaining for the general reader and in it the student will find much to give him a better idea of French aid in the American revolution.

PAUL C. PHILLIPS